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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,990	02/24/2004	Noboru Suzuki	1232-5296	6772

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EXAMINER	
KHAN, USMAN A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/786,990	SUZUKI, NOBORU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Usman Khan	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *24 February 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 February 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *11/10/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/10/2004 has been considered by the examiner. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objection

Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: The dependent claim should start with "The" since this dependent claim depends from claim 8. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 7 depends on itself. The dependent claim 7 should depend from one of the preceding claims from

which it depends. For faster prosecution I will take claim 7 as being dependent on any of claims 1 - 6 for now, this might change depending on applicant's amendment. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 - 3 and 8 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US patent No. 6,507,366) in further view of Yasukawa (US patent No. 5,614,982).

Regarding **claim 1**, Lee teaches an image-taking control apparatus controlling a plurality of drivable parts of an image-taking device (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt driving parts of the camera), the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be selected only in steps such that operations of the respective drivable parts from their current positions to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously (column 3 lines 11 – 27 pulse signals controlling the pan and tilt drive parts and both the pan and tilt are done simultaneously).

Lee teaches most of the limitations of claim 1, However Lee fails to teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation

speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time.

Yasukawa, on the other hand teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first

drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time.

More specifically, Yasukawa teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts (figure 1, item 6 and figure 3 item 38; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts), based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish (figures 1, 3, and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 48 *et seq.* position detection unit, target drive position calculation unit, and drive speed based on time); and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting

unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts); wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit), the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information); and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information), and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time (figures 7a-7b and 8a-8b and column 7 lines 59 *et seq.* ideal speed in terms of time and drive are used in driving the unit).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Yasukawa with the teachings of Lee because as stated in column 2, line 50 – column 3 line 9 Yasukawa teaches that using his invention will realize greater auto-focusing capabilities and accurate and faster auto-

focusing also greatly reducing the load on memory capacity and on the calculation processing.

Regarding **claim 2**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Lee teaches that the plurality of drivable parts of the image-taking device are drivable parts related to changes in zoom, focus and image-taking direction (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt [i.e. direction] driving parts of the camera).

Regarding **claim 3**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Lee teaches that the speed selector selects for the first drivable part, of the selectable operation speeds, an operation speed at which the time difference becomes shortest (column 7 lines 59 – 67, speed chosen to greatly reduce time).

Regarding **claim 8**, Lee teaches an image-taking system, comprising: an image-taking device comprising a plurality of drivable parts (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt driving parts of the camera), the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be selected only in steps (column 3 lines 11 – 27 pulse signals controlling the pan and tilt drive parts) and an image-taking control apparatus controlling a plurality of drivable parts of an

image-taking device (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt driving parts of the camera), the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be selected only in steps such that operations of the respective drivable parts from their current positions to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously (column 3 lines 11 – 27 pulse signals controlling the pan and tilt drive parts and both the pan and tilt are done simultaneously).

Lee teaches most of the limitations of claim 1, However Lee fails to teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time.

Yasukawa, on the other hand teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time.

More specifically, Yasukawa teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts (figure 1, item 6 and figure 3 item 38; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts), based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information

on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish (figures 1, 3, and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 48 *et seq.* position detection unit, target drive position calculation unit, and drive speed based on time); and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts); wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit), the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information); and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information), and lets the operation of the first

drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time (figures 7a-7b and 8a-8b and column 7 lines 59 *et seq.* ideal speed in terms of time and drive are used in driving the unit).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Yasukawa with the teachings of Lee because as stated in column 2, line 50 – column 3 line 9 Yasukawa teaches that using his invention will realize greater auto-focusing capabilities and accurate and faster auto-focusing also greatly reducing the load on memory capacity and on the calculation processing.

Regarding **claim 9**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Lee teaches that the image-taking device comprises a camera whose image-taking field angle (figure 1 pan/tilt and figures 2a-b) and focusing state can be changed (figure 1 zoom/focus), and a pan head supporting the camera and capable of a panning and a tilting operation (figures 2a-b).

Regarding **claim 10**, Lee teaches an image-taking system, comprising: an image-taking device comprising a plurality of drivable parts (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt driving parts of the camera), the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be

selected only in steps (column 3 lines 11 – 27 pulse signals controlling the pan and tilt drive parts) and an image-taking control apparatus controlling a plurality of drivable parts of an image-taking device (figure 1 item 7 system controller controlling the zoom/focus and pan/tilt driving parts of the camera), the plurality of drivable parts including a first drivable part whose operation speed can be selected only in steps such that operations of the respective drivable parts from their current positions to their target positions finish substantially simultaneously (column 3 lines 11 – 27 pulse signals controlling the pan and tilt drive parts and both the pan and tilt are done simultaneously).

Lee teaches most of the limitations of claim 1, However Lee fails to teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation

of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time. Also, an input device with which information specifying the target positions and the target operation time can be input into the image-taking control apparatus.

Yasukawa, on the other hand teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts, based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish; and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector; wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part, the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position can finish within the target operation time; and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes, and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time. Also, an input device with which information specifying the target

positions and the target operation time can be input into the image-taking control apparatus.

More specifically, Yasukawa teaches teach that the image-taking control apparatus comprising: a speed selector selecting an operation speed for each of the drivable parts (figure 1, item 6 and figure 3 item 38; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts), based on information on its current position, information on its target position, and information on a target operation time from a start command time at which an operation start of the plurality of drivable parts is commanded until the respective operations to the target positions finish (figures 1, 3, and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 48 *et seq.* position detection unit, target drive position calculation unit, and drive speed based on time); and a controller performing such control that each of the drivable parts operates at its operation speed selected by the speed selector (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit; when combined with Lee's invention will control operation speed for each of the drivable parts); wherein the speed selector selects a specific operation speed for the first drivable part from selectable operation speeds of the first drivable part (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit), the specific operation speed being an operation speed at which the operation to the target position

can finish within the target operation time (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information); and wherein the controller calculates an anticipated operation time needed until the operation of the first drivable part to its target position at the specific operation speed finishes (figure 1, item 6, figure 3 item 38, and figures and 6 – 8; column 3 lines 10 – 42, column 4 lines 16 *et seq.*, and column 5 lines 26 *et seq.*; ideal speed setting unit using current position and target position information), and lets the operation of the first drivable part start when a waiting time corresponding to a time difference between the anticipated operation time and the target operation time has passed after the start command time (figures 7a-7b and 8a-8b and column 7 lines 59 *et seq.* ideal speed in terms of time and drive are used in driving the unit). Also, an input device with which information specifying the target positions and the target operation time can be input into the image-taking control apparatus (figure 1 item 9 calculation unit sending information to the drive unit 1).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of Yasukawa with the teachings of Lee because as stated in column 2, line 50 – column 3 line 9 Yasukawa teaches that using his invention will realize greater auto-focusing capabilities and accurate and faster auto-focusing also greatly reducing the load on memory capacity and on the calculation processing.

Claims 4 – 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US patent No. 6,507,366) in further view of Yasukawa (US patent No. 5,614,982) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding **claim 4**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim. Additionally, Lee teaches that the speed selector selects for the first drivable part, of the selectable operation speeds, an operation speed at which the time difference becomes longest.

However, Lee in further view of Yasukawa fail to teach that the speed selector selects for the first drivable part, of the selectable operation speeds, an operation speed at which the time difference becomes longest.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have the speed selector select an operation speed at which the time difference becomes longest.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the speed selector select an focus operation speed at which the time difference becomes longest to compensate for external vibration of the camera and also to focus in precisely into a subject.

Regarding **claim 5**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim.

However, Lee in further view of Yasukawa fail to teach that the controller sets the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first

drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a wide-angle side.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have a controller that sets the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a wide-angle side.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the controller set the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a wide-angle side for faster focusing of the lens without any delay.

Regarding **claim 6**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim.

However, Lee in further view of Yasukawa fail to teach that the controller sets the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a telephoto side.

The examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art to have a controller that sets the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a telephoto side.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the controller set the waiting time to zero regardless of the time difference when the controller lets the first drivable part perform an operation such that an image-taking field angle is changed toward a telephoto side for faster focusing of the lens without any delay.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US patent No. 6,507,366) in further view of Yasukawa (US patent No. 5,614,982) in further view of Applicants admitted prior art.

Regarding **claim 7**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claims 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 Lee in further view of Yasukawa teach all of the limitations of the parent claim.

However, Lee in further view of Yasukawa fail to disclose the plurality of drivable parts includes the first drivable part and a second drivable part whose operation speed can be selected in non-steps. Matsubara, on the other hand discloses the plurality of drivable parts includes the first drivable part and a second drivable part whose operation speed can be selected in non-steps.

More specifically, Matsubara discloses that it is well know in the art to have the plurality of drivable parts includes the first drivable part and a second drivable part whose operation speed can be selected in non-steps (paragraph 0005; shot operation function).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the prior art teachings by the applicant to easily change the image taking conditions as disclosed in paragraph 0005 by the applicant.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Suzuki et al. (US patent No. 4,897,683) teaches controller for controlling the speed of multiple driving units.

Suzuki (US patent No. 6,867,809) teaches controller for controlling the speed of lens driving units.

Miyazawa et al. (US patent No. 5,210,562) teaches controller for controlling the driving unit with speed and location information along with target location information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Usman Khan
04/06/07
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER